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Familiar horror in Florida

- Teenager who had been expelled charged with 17 counts of murder after latest US school shooting
- Students say suspect harassed peers, bragged about gun
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Marla Eveillard, 14, cries as she hugs a friend Thursday before the start of a vigil at Parkland Baptist Church for the victims of Wednesday's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.
GERALD HERBERT/AP

New Pentagon policy: Be deployable in 12 months, or you're out

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Facing enormous demand around the globe and a slump in military retention, the Pentagon on Wednesday introduced a new policy that will require servicemembers to be deployable within 12 months or be forced out of the armed services.

"On any given day, about 13 to 14 percent of the force is medically unable to deploy — that comes out to be around 286,000" servicemembers, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Robert Wilkie told a Senate panel Wednesday.

"The situation we face today is really unlike anything we have faced — certainly in the post-World War II era," Wilkie said. "We have to ensure, given the climate this country faces, that everyone who signs up can be deployed anywhere in the world."

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on personnel and family readiness, Wilkie described the policy as an effort to bolster military retention.

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